

**NO REFORM SCHOOL.**

**It Is Practically Abolished by Judge Hazen's Decision**

**RENDERED IN COURT TODAY.**

The Title of the Act Creating the Reform School is Defective.

Judge Z. T. Hazen in the district court this morning decided that no magistrate has authority to sentence any person to the reform school.

The decision was in case of the application of Walter McLean, through his next friend, L. Lee Knight, for a writ of habeas corpus to secure his release from the reform school.

McLean is a boy nine years old, who was convicted in Justice Fury's court of stealing a sack of wheat from a car in the Santa Fe yards. Judge Fury ordered the boy sent to the reform school until he should become of age.

Lawyers McKeever and Stone represented the petitioners for the writ, and asked for it on the ground that the act of the legislature creating the Reform school did not contain in its title any reference to putting boys there, but merely declared it an act "creating a Reform school and providing for the maintenance thereof."

Judge Hazen decided this point in the affirmative. He said: "The courts have repeatedly declared that the title of an act must be an index to what the act contains. The act creating the Reform school makes no reference to the power of magistrates to put boys there, and I cannot do otherwise than declare the section void."

This ruling by which every boy in the Reform school can gain his liberty on a writ of habeas corpus, made a stir in the court room. Justice Hazen continued:

"I want it understood that I shall hear no more applications on a writ of habeas corpus to remove boys from the Reform school until the supreme court has passed on the point." The supreme court has a case now pending before it involving the same point. If the supreme court affirms the decision of Judge Hazen every boy now in the Reform school may pack his trunk and go back home if he has a home, or return to his old ways if he has not. Then the superintendent, his assistants and attendants, can also go home and turn the building over to the rats.

**IN RECEIVERS HANDS.**

The Topeka Water Company Gets Receiver in Judge Kiner's Court.

The Topeka Water company is in the hands of a receiver, Judge Kiner of the United States court on the petition of John O'Halloran, trustee of the eastern bondholders, has appointed Elias Summerville member of all the water, gas and electric light plants controlled by the American Dilementure company of Chicago.

The Topeka company which was formerly owned by Topeka people was in 1889 sold to eastern capitalists by Mr. John M. Munn.

Mr. Summerville, who has been an unpaid receiver, was general manager of all the companies under the American Dilementure company. This receivership will not affect Topeka in any way as there is no local capital in the company.

The American Dilementure company controlled about twenty-three plants in all, including fifteen water plants, four or five gas plants and the others being electric light plants. The company own four water plants in Kansas which are located at Atchison, Topeka, Lawrence and Wichita.

Three hundred thousand dollars have been expended on the Topeka plant since it passed into the hands of the present owners.

The bondholders asked for a receiver to prevent the forfeiture of two mortgages secured by outstanding bonds amounting to about one million dollars.

**LOCAL MENTION.**

There will be a meeting of the Horse Police association at J. M. Shadoff's office, 527 Kansas Avenue, Tuesday evening, February 13, 1894. A general attendance of members is desired.

P. Peterson was arrested Saturday night by Officer Campbell, charged with being drunk. He had his hearing before Justice Eason this morning and pleaded not guilty. None of the witnesses were present and his case was continued until tomorrow morning.

Chris Wagner, a soldier, who was arrested on suspicion of being a deserter last week, appeared again in the police court this morning, on the charge of disorderly conduct. He was given shelter in a North Topeka mill for the night and committed to jail. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$10.

The docket at the police court this morning was a small one. Milton Gomring and Chris Stomann, two of the two boys who were arrested last Thursday, charged with stealing laprobes from vehicles, were discharged this morning. There was no evidence against them. The other three have been placed in the county jail.

Sprague Petty died at his home corner of Fifth and Lafayette streets, Saturday night. The funeral services were held from the house this morning at 10 o'clock. He was a member of Madison street Baptist church, and for several years an employee of the A. T. & S. F. railroad. The services were conducted by Rev. W. F. Flit.

Officers Hicks and Dyal went steadily to the brick building under the shadows of the sidewalk on the south side of Sixth street the other night, under the impression that a trap game was in progress there. In fact several railroad young men have fitted the building up as a gymnasium, with trapeze and ladders. The officers were greeted with the "hors-laugh" when their mission became known. No arrests were made.

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**SHAWNEE'S BEST FARMERS.**

**A Two Day's Festival at Oak Grange in Mission Township.**

One of the biggest Farmers' Institutes ever held in Shawnee county will be the one at Oak Grange hall in Meadow township next Wednesday and lasting two days. Several members of the faculty of the Manhattan Agricultural college will be present and two will read papers. The following essays by the persons named will be read:

"What Kind of Labor Pays You," L. N. Witte; "Dairying and Poultry Raising," Mrs. Fred Brown; "Recitation," Miss Sarah McCombs; "Farm Dairying," Gen. A. Anderson; "Market Gardening," R. H. Stevens; "Drifting or Seering," Mrs. K. J. McCracken; "Sorghum as a Forage Plant," Bradford Miller; "Practical Horticulture," W. T. Jackson; "How to Make Farm Life What It Should Be," H. B. Lovell; "Stock Feeding," Prof. C. C. George; "Fruit Culture," How Conducted and by What Extent Should the Average Farmer Engage in It," W. H. Condit; "Notes Concerning Farm Machinery," Prof. O. P. Hood; "Recitation," L. Lee Knight; "How Clover Acts as a Fertilizer," E. B. Cowgill; "Poultry Raising," F. G. Tompkins; "The Man Who Doesn't Get Along," F. D. Cuborn; "Time Grasses," T. W. Harrison.

**SNAP SHOTS AT HOME NEWS.**

This is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Wednesday will be St. Valentine's day. This is good weather to help the poor.

The county commissioners will meet again on Friday.

J. S. Burdette has been confirmed as engineer at the county jail.

A Sunday school concert was given at the Lutheran church last evening.

Seven former Wauhalla students are attending the Topeka Business college. Battery B is to be disbanded and the members have been accordingly notified.

Rev. L. Blakesley was too sick with lung trouble to occupy his pulpit yesterday.

John A. Peck has been appointed commissioner of deeds for Kansas at St. Louis.

The Spider and the Fly plays all week at Kansas City. It comes here from St. Joe.

The Associated Charities has given away 4,000 pounds of flour and 10 tons of coal.

The Saturday Night club is about equally divided for and against equal suffrage.

People who leave their bundles on the street cars will find them at the transfer station.

Miss Helen Stauffer conducted the Bible meeting of the Y. W. C. A. yesterday afternoon.

A Topeka avenue young woman broke tooth yesterday eating a biscuit of her own baking.

Rev. J. H. Beck is conducting the revival services at the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

The street cars ran all night, and it cost the company \$5.50 an hour to keep them running.

Dr. Peter McLean occupied the pulpit of the First Congregational church yesterday morning.

Rev. Mr. Wyman of the Unitarian church will be ordained and installed Wednesday night.

A convention of all the Epworth leagues in the city is being arranged for Saturday, March 10.

Church services at many of the city churches were abandoned last night on account of the storm.

A great many people spent Sunday night at home yesterday, as the streets were not so promising.

**AT THE THEATERS.**

**Eight Bells and the Starr's Big Comedy Company.**

The Grand opera house will be dark tonight, but tomorrow the celebrated Brothers Byrnes, four of them, and a large company, will give their latest success, "Eight Bells." This spectacular company, is said to be above the average in the merit of its specialties, music, comic and musical effects, of which the revolving ship in the second act, is one of the most novel stage productions before the public this season.

Tilly Clu's Gentry company is up to same standard that has marked its performances in Topeka in previous seasons. It is under the management of Sam T. Jack. Mr. Jack is the strictest disciplinarian in the theatrical profession. His people have to be in their car by 11:30 every night, and have to arise at a reasonable hour.

Hanlon Brothers' "Fantasma" is booked for the Grand next Friday, February 10. The company are now needing no introduction to Topeka patrons, but it is just to say the company this season has undergone some such transformations in the past year as to entitle it to the dignity of a new production. It is one of the best productions of its class booked here for this season.

The "Spider and the Fly" was given at the Grand Saturday night to a large house by M. B. Lewitt's clever company. The girls were pretty and the comedians funny. Several new features made the performance one of more than usual interest.

Star's big comedy company will open their week's engagement tonight at Crawford's opera house, presenting for the first time in this city Frederick Brighton's sensational comedy in four acts, "Forgiven," in an unequalled manner, by an exceptionally strong cast. During the play many specialties will be introduced. This evening only, one lady and gentleman, or two ladies will be admitted on one paid ticket reserved before 7 p.m.

**RWARD FOR J. J. HITTE.**

**He is to Be Register of the U. S. Land Office.**

A Washington dispatch to this Kansas City Times says that among the "surprising nominations" to be announced during this week will be placed for two Topeka Democrats, Lawyer J. J. Hite to be register of the United States land office at Topeka and Editor H. Van Longen of the "American Telegraph" to be receiver of the same department.

Capt. J. L. Bright, who has been receiver for several years says that the income of the office isn't over \$300 a month.

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